



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

290 BROADWAY, ROOM 1520  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

**DATE:** January 3, 2018

**PREPARED BY:** SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**CASE #:** OI-AR-2015-ADM-0065

**CROSS REFERENCE #:** COMP-2015-74

**TITLE:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,  
WASHINGTON, DC

**CASE CLOSING REPORT**

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	Washington, DC Washington, DC	EPA Employee (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Employee

**POTENTIAL VIOLATION(S):**

1. 18 U.S.C. § 1028 – Fraud and related activity in connection with identification documents, authentication features, and information
2. 18 U.S.C. § 1001 – False statement
3. EPA Order 3120.1, EPA Conduct and Discipline Manual, Appendix – Table of Penalties #16 – Deliberate misrepresentation, falsification, concealment or withholding of a material fact, or refusal to testify or cooperate in an official proceeding
4. EPA Office of the Chief Financial Officer Resource Management Directive System 2550B (Official Travel) Policy Manual

**ALLEGATION:**

On November 30, 2014, the Washington Field Office, Office of Inspector General (OIG), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Arlington, VA received EPA Hotline Complaint 2015-044. According to the complaint, EPA employee (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), EPA, Washington, DC may have misused (b) (6) government issued travel credit card, possibly by allowing (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) make automatic teller machine withdrawals.

During the course of this investigation information was developed to suggest (b) (6) may have provided false information concerning (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), using (b) (6) government travel card.

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## FINDINGS:

Multiple document reviews and interviews were conducted which developed information to suggest (b) (6) provided false information concerning the use of (b) (6) government travel card.

On two occasions (b) (6) was interviewed. (b) (6) initially stated that (b) (6) had first learned of the questioned charges on (b) (6) government travel card after being contacted by the bank. (b) (6) related that (b) (6) had spoken with (b) (6) and confirmed that (b) (6) had made the cash withdrawals. (b) (6) stated that (b) (6) accidentally used the card thinking it was one of their personal credit cards. However, after continued investigation, (b) (6) was reinterviewed where (b) (6) admitted that it was (b) (6) and not (b) (6) who used (b) (6) government travel card and made the questioned cash withdrawals. (b) (6) recalled that (b) (6) may have used the money to pay bills and make random purchases.

**DISPOSITION:** Not Supported; Supported; Closed

Sufficient information was not developed to support (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) violated 18 U.S.C. § 1028, as alleged. Sufficient information was developed to support (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), misused (b) (6) government travel card, as well as provided false information to EPA management and EPA OIG investigators.

On April 1, 2016, this investigation was presented to the Public Integrity Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC for criminal prosecution but was declined.

On September 27, 2016, a report of investigation concerning this inquiry was provided to the Deputy Director, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Office of Acquisition Management, EPA, Washington, DC for any action deemed appropriate. This office was subsequently notified that on April 18, 2017, a Notice of Proposed Removal, citing a lack of candor and misuse of the government travel card, was provided to (b) (6). On (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 2017, (b) (6) resigned from (b) (6) EPA position.

As all investigative steps have been taken this investigation is closed in this office.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

DATE: JANUARY 25, 2018

PREPARED BY: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CASE #: OI-AT-2018-ADM-0027

CROSS REFERENCE #:

TITLE: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

EPA

REGION 4

CASE CLOSING REPORT

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street Atlanta, GA 30303	

**VIOLATION(S):**

EPA Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Policy

**ALLEGATION:**

On (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 2017 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA, Security Management Division, Washington DC, notified the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Inspector General (OIG) hotline that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA Region 4 was arrested on (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) /2017 by the (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) GA Police Department ((b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PD) for the crimes related to a domestic violence incident. EPA's Personnel Security Branch was notified of the arrest via an OPM Post-Appointment Arrest Report on (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) /2017.

**FINDINGS:**

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PD records revealed that the incident was reported to authorities by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) however, upon arrival, the responding officer witnessed part of the verbal altercation between (b) (6), and (b) (6), During this verbal altercation, the officer overheard (b) (6), admitting to striking (b) (6), No injuries were observed or reported in this incident. Based on evidence collected by (b) (6), PD, (b) (6), was arrested on various domestic violence related offenses. (b) (7)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PD records indicated prior domestic incidents involving (b) (6),. However, this investigation did not identify any previous arrests of (b) (6), by (b) (6), PD or other jurisdictions. (b) (7)

A review of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Sheriff's Office on-line records identified the charges against (b) (6), as: 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Cruelty to Children (misdemeanor); False Imprisonment, 3 counts (felony); and Simple Battery-Family Violence, 2 counts (misdemeanor). (b) (6), was released on a \$10,000 bond.

This investigation determined that (b) (6), did not possess a National Security Clearance. Therefore, there was no EPA policy requirement for (b) (6), to notify the Agency of (b) (6) arrest.

#### **DISPOSITION:**

Information collected during this investigation was turned over (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7), EPA Region 4, for administrative review. All investigative actions have been completed and this case will be closed.



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
77 W. JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604

**CASE #:** OI-CH-2018-THT-0015

**CROSS REFERENCE #:** Hotline #2018-0046

**TITLE:** UNKNOWN SUBJECT: TELEPHONE THREAT, TROY, MICHIGAN

**PREPARED BY:** SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**CASE CLOSING REPORT**

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
UNKNOWN MALE CALLER	TROY, MI	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**COMPLAINT:** Possible indirect threats made towards Scott Pruitt, Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and other employees of the agency.

**BACKGROUND:** On October 31, 2017 Special Agent (SA) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Inspector General (OIG), Office of Investigations (OI), Chicago Field Office (CFO), received EPA OIG Hotline Referral #2018-0046. Specifically, the EPA OIG Hotline referenced a voicemail, which was received through the EPA OIG Hotline on October 9, 2017, from an unknown caller who placed the call using phone number (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). The captioned phone number originates in Troy, MI. The message referenced possible indirect threats made towards the EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt, and employees of the EPA.

**INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS:** Investigative activities consisting of records queries from multiple federal agencies failed to identify a subject name associated with the above referenced phone number. Further, there was no evidence of a direct or indirect threat against Mr. Pruitt or the EPA. Due to the (b) (7)(E), (b) (5)

**CASE:**  
OI-CH-2017-THT-0015

**INTERVIEWEE:**

**DATE OF ACTIVITY:**  
12/1/17

**DRAFTED DATE:**  
12/1/17

**AGENT:**  
SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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**RECOMMENDATION:** SA (b) (6), (b) (7) presented this investigation to Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Matthew Ross, Chief of General Crimes, Eastern District of Michigan. AUSA Ross reviewed the facts of the case and advised his office would be declining to pursue prosecution (b) (5), (b) (7)(E)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

No further investigative activities remain, therefore, it is recommended that this investigation be closed.

**CASE:**  
**OI-CH-2017-THT-0015**

**INTERVIEWEE:**

**DATE OF ACTIVITY:**  
**12/1/17**

**DRAFTED DATE:**  
**12/1/17**

**AGENT:**  
SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(E)

**RESTRICTED INFORMATION**

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**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**DATE:** JANUARY 8, 2018

**PREPARED BY:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**CASE #:** OI-NE-2014-ADM-0009

**CROSS REFERENCE #:** COMP-2013-0192

**TITLE:** ACCUTEST LABORATORIES, ET AL.

**CASE CLOSING REPORT**

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
ACCUTEST LABORATORIES, ET AL.	2235 US HIGHWAY 130 DAYTON, NEW JERSEY 08810	(732) 329-3499

**VIOLATIONS:**

18 U.S.C 287 – False Claims (criminal)  
18 U.S.C. 1001 – False Statements  
31 U.S.C. 3729 – Federal False Claims Act (civil)

**ALLEGATION:**

On August 28, 2013, Special Agent (SA) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Inspector General (OIG), Office of Investigations (OI), New York Resident Office, received a complaint from SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) EPA Criminal Investigations Division (CID), New Jersey Resident Office (NJRO). In the anonymous complaint, it was alleged that Accutest Laboratories (Accutest), 2235 US Highway 130, Dayton, NJ, had been falsifying laboratory testing data for approximately two years. According to the complaint, Accutest had been having problems meeting holding times and this led the laboratory analysts to take “shortcuts” when performing the testing of samples. In addition, the complainant stated the Agilent Enviroquant software log files were being manipulated of anything which may invite scrutiny. The complainant noted that recently, Accutest had installed a backup software program, which archived all of the data, and will show evidence of the integrity problems at the laboratory. Overall, the complainant had alleged testing problems in the Extractions, Organics, and Semi-Volatile Organics departments of the laboratory.

On November 7, 2013, SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was contacted by SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), EPA CID, NJRO, who stated this investigation was currently being looked at by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and the United States Army CID, for work Accutest had done for the Department of Defense. In addition, SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated the case had been accepted for criminal prosecution by the District of New Jersey and was also being investigated on the civil side.

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## FINDINGS:

OI and EPA CID conducted interviews of current and former Accutest employees to obtain additional information relative to the allegations cited above. The employees interviewed provided additional information and examples of the issues at the lab, i.e., changing the voltage on the gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GCMS) if a sample did not pass, not following the required Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for testing/analyzing samples, with respect to the extraction lab - not performing the required amount of shakes as per testing protocol and shortening the amount of time the sample should “rest”, broken equipment, using stale data, etc. Some of the employees stated that there was a high volume of work at the lab and in order to get it done the analysts “cut corners”. Several of the employees interviewed confirmed that management was aware of the problems and advised that they (management) would “fix it”.

In April 2015, an analyst at Accutest’s (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) location contacted OI about an earlier incident with an analyst manipulating data in the volatile organic compound (VOC) group. The matter was reported to management at the time and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). The analyst who contacted OI expressed concerns with how the impacted data was being reprocessed. Accutest hired a team to manage the reprocessing of the data. The analyst stated from what (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) observed they were not properly trained to perform the task. They would reprocess the data but not update the retention times. They also added in false hits, there were missing hits, etc. The reprocessed data was uploaded into the laboratory information management system (LIMS). The analyst was concerned the data was not being reprocessed correctly.

In October 2014, legal representatives for Accutest met with Government attorneys and discussed the issues raised at both the NJ location and the Colorado location.

## DISPOSITION:

Based on the information detailed above, the allegation that the Agilent Enviroquant software log files were being manipulated, trimmed, and purged of anything which may invite scrutiny was inconclusive. The allegation that Accutest had failed to properly follow EPA standards in analyzing certain soil and water samples in its semi-volatile and extraction laboratories was supported.

On November 12, 2015, a civil settlement was finalized between the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Civil Division, District of New Jersey, and Accutest. The Agreement was reached pursuant to acts committed by Accutest personnel at the Dayton, NJ location. The settlement resolved allegations that between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2013, Accutest failed to properly follow EPA standards in analyzing certain soil and water samples in its semi-volatile and extraction laboratories. It was alleged that Accutest did not properly extract samples because: (1) It did not perform the required number of shakes for waste water samples, (2) it did not wait the required amount of time in between shakes of the samples, and (3) it did not properly “spike” samples with a known compound as part of the quality control process, possibly affecting the quality control process in place to ensure that materials in the sample were fully extracted. It was also alleged that Accutest altered the settings on their gas chromatography/mass

spectrometry machines and disregarded calibration protocols. Accutest agreed to pay the United States \$3M to settle this matter.

On January 9, 2017, the United States Attorney's Office, Criminal Division, District of New Jersey, closed the criminal case, (b) (5), (b) (7)(E)

On January 24, 2017, OI presented this matter to EPA's Suspension and Debarment Division (SDD) for consideration. On July 12, 2017, SDD advised it would not be taking an administrative action against Accutest, or any other entity associated with the laboratory. SDD advised this decision was made (b) (5)

As all criminal, civil and administrative avenues have been addressed, OI will be closing this matter at this time.



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100  
BOSTON, MA 02109

**DATE:** DECEMBER 21, 2017

**PREPARED BY:** SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**CASE #:** OI-NE-2014-ADM-0094

**CROSS REFERENCE #:** N/A

**TITLE:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), OPA

**CASE CLOSING REPORT**

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	BOSTON, MA	N/A

**POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS:**

Title 18 U.S.C. § 1001 - False Statements

EPA Policy Number 2540-08-PI - Time and Attendance Reporting

EPA Order 3120.1 (1)(a)(b)(c) - Attendance related offenses

EPA Order 3120.1 (31) - Falsifying time and attendance records for oneself or another employee

**ALLEGATION:**

On June 9, 2014 Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG), Office of Investigations (OI), Washington Field Office (WFO), New York Post of Duty, received OIG Hotline referral Complaint Number 2014-141. It was alleged (b) (6), conducted interviews on the radio (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and was also required to attend various (b) (6), events during the day as part of (b) (6), duties as the (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). The complainant questioned how (b) (6), could work full time for EPA and still perform (b) (6), duties as the (b) (6), at the same time. (b) (7)

**FINDINGS:**

OI determined (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was approved to collect a stipend and serve as (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) while working for the EPA. (b) (6), was informed no official duty time could be used in conjunction with (b) (6), secondary employment (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). Facts disclosed during the investigation supported the allegation that (b) (6), had spent official duty time on duties related to serving as the (b) (6), (b) (6), resigned during the course of this investigation. (b) (7) (b) (7)

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## DISPOSITION:

On January 28, 2016, the matter was declined for criminal prosecution by the United States Attorney's Office, District of Massachusetts. A Report of Investigation was issued to the Agency and on July 3, 2017, the Agency issued a debt letter to (b) (6), for \$2,431.94. On September 27, 2017, OI was notified (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) had made full restitution to the EPA. As such, this matter will be closed at this time.



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 30, 2017

**PREPARED BY:** RAC (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**CASE #:** OI-NE-2017-ADM-0090

**CROSS REFERENCE #:** HOTLINE #2017-0184

**TITLE:** CROSSTEX, INC. ET AL.

**CASE CLOSING REPORT**

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
CROSSTEX INC.	10 RANICK ROAD HAUPPAUGE, NY 11788	(888) 276-7783

**VIOLATIONS:**

18 U.S.C 287 – False Claims

18 U.S.C. 1001 – False Statements

**ALLEGATION:**

On March 29, 2017, Special Agent (SA) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Inspector General (OIG), Office of Investigations, New York Resident Office, received EPA OIG Hotline Complaint 2017-0184. According to the EPA OIG Hotline Complaint, it had been alleged that the medical device company Crosstex Inc. (Crosstex), 10 Ranick Road, Hauppauge, NY, had been using the official seal of the EPA on video advertisements related to the marketing of a dental waterline purification unit called DentaPure. According to the complaint, these videos could be found on the YouTube website under the URL: <https://youtu.be/r7CYlycR2Qo>. Upon taking in the initial complaint, SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), EPA OIG, Hotline Operator, verified the content that included the official EPA seal on the DentaPure marketing video.

**FINDINGS:**

OI conducted a review of nine publicly available marketing videos related to DentaPure on YouTube. The videos were all narrated in nine different languages, but the content of each video remained the same, sans the respective printed language on the screen in each video. In the English version of the DentaPure video, the official EPA seal was not used, but the letters, “EPA Environmental Protection Agency” were noted on the screen between the 1:14 and 1:18 minute marks of the video. In the other eight versions of the DentaPure video, the official EPA seal was used in all of them, and they all appeared on the screen between the 1:14 and 1:18 minute marks of each video. Specifically, in the Dutch, Italian, and America Latina versions of the video, the

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official EPA seal appeared with the phrase, “United States Environmental Protection Agency” encircling the agency flower logo. The DentaPure videos that are in French, German, Japanese, Mandarin, and Spanish, all used the same official EPA seal, but “United States Environmental Protection Agency” was printed in the respective language of the video.

#### **DISPOSITION:**

Based on the information detailed above, the allegation was supported. A referral was made to EPA’s Office of General Counsel (OGC) on August 28, 2017. On November 16, 2017, OGC advised they looked at a few of Crosstex’s YouTube videos on November 15, 2017 and did not see the EPA official seal being used. OGC was to look at a few more of the YouTube videos on November 16, 2017 and would contact Crosstex directly if they found anything. If they did not find anything, they (OGC) will close out the matter on their end. OGC advised it would handle the matter and OI could close out the matter on its end. As such, OI will be closing this matter at this time.



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

75 Hawthorne Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**DATE:** November 7, 2017

**PREPARED BY:** SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

**CASE #:** OI-SA-2017-CAC-0089

**CROSS REFERENCE #:**

**TITLE:** TEECHIP.COM

**CASE CLOSING REPORT**

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
TEECHIP.COM	41454 Christy St, Fremont, CA, 94538	

**VIOLATIONS:**

18 U.S.C. § 1017: Government seals wrongfully used and instruments wrongfully sealed  
18 U.S.C. § 506: Seals of departments or agencies

**ALLEGATION:** On March 28, 2017, EPA-OIG received notification of the sale of items with the EPA logo on them, found on the website TeeChips.com. This sale was not approved or sponsored by the EPA.

**FINDINGS:** The investigation found that TeeChips.com, also operating as TeeSpringVIP.com and OoShirts, to be a sponsoring site, in which people can upload symbols, seals, and other images to be printed on various mediums, to include shirts, bags, and cups among other things. The sale of these items is then advertised as a fundraiser or special sale, and can be found with advertisement on social media, such as Facebook. It was discovered that the person involved with this particular sale was operating with an IP address from Vietnam, earning \$3,699.08, in profits from the sales.

**DISPOSITION:** The matter was not referred to the US Attorney's Office, Northern District of California, in that (b) (5), (b) (7)(E)

All information was provided to EPA Office of General Counsel for possible further action. They determined the matter to be resolved at this time, with no need for a cease and desist letter, seeing that the sale was no longer ongoing. EPA OGC said they would continue to monitor the site, and if it was found to be selling items with the official EPA logo or seal on it, they would then pursue a cease and desist letter.

No further investigative activity is warranted. This case is closed.

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